

# **MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

## **Purpose of Scholarships**

National studies and projections indicate that demand for librarians far exceeds supply. This is considered one of the most critical facts for library service at this time. Financial support for future librarians increases the professional library workforce by encouraging individuals who might otherwise not have the resources for higher education to become librarians. The Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships are designed to encourage professional librarianship in Missouri's libraries.

## **Further Information**

The Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and class fees. Scholarship funds shall be paid directly to the financial aid office of the college or university in which the recipient is enrolled, where they shall be applied as anticipated financial aid on the recipient's account. Funds will only be available if the student is enrolled after the final drop date from class. The school shall credit the recipient's account with the amount awarded for the semester involved.

Scholarship applicants are encouraged to enroll full-time and complete their studies in a timely manner. However, the Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships are also available to applicants who may be part-time students or completing part of their class work using distance-learning opportunities.

## **Requirements:**

A candidate for a Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarship must:

- Be a Missourian based on at least one of the following criteria:
  - Current resident of Missouri
  - Currently employed in Missouri
  - Born in Missouri
  - Current Missouri taxpayer
  - Graduate of a Missouri high school
  - Graduate of a Missouri college or university
- Be admitted to an accredited graduate school in a Missouri university.

- Provide evidence of application to degree or certification program appropriate to professional librarianship, within the graduate school to which you have been admitted. The degree program must meet American Library Association or National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education specifications for professional librarianship and the certification program must meet Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education specifications for school librarian certification.
- Renewal applicants must have proof of maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.00 to be eligible.
- Make a commitment to work in a publicly funded Missouri library after graduation as a full-time employee. The work commitment is reflected mathematically as one month of work commitment for each credit hour of academic course work supported by the scholarship. For example, if a student receives scholarship support for a 12 credit hour semester, a 12-month work commitment would be required. A scholarship recipient who fails to fulfill this commitment will be expected to repay a prorated amount based on total scholarship money received and the months of work obligation not met.

### **Application Requirements**

- Completed application form and all requested information (essay, references) sent to the Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee. Completed information may be faxed to 573-751-3612 but must be followed by original documents mailed and postmarked no later than July 15, 2003 for the Fall Semester 2003.
- Official transcripts from appropriate academic institutions.
- Essay.

### **Selection Process**

- The scholarships will be advertised by notifying all appropriate libraries and academic institutions in Missouri.
- The Scholarship Committee, will screen and evaluate the applications and forward their recommendations to the State Librarian and the Secretary of State.
- The Scholarship Committee may elect to conduct phone or personal interviews with finalists.
- The Scholarship Committee reserves the right not to consider incomplete applications.

- Applicants are responsible for ascertaining that the Scholarship Committee has received references and transcripts.

### **Post Award**

- The State Librarian will notify applicants of scholarship awards.
- The State Library may monitor the academic progress of any scholarship recipient during the semester for which the scholarship is awarded.
- The scholarship recipients are responsible for sending the State Library a copy of their grades at the end of the semester for which the scholarships are awarded.
- **Recipients should be aware that any second semester payment is dependent both upon adequate academic achievement during the first semester and registration for courses in the second semester. Recipients are responsible for notifying the State Library about the number of credit hours being carried in the second semester.**